

13 September 1951

Dr. Milton S. Eisenhower  
President  
The Pennsylvania State College  
State College, Pennsylvania

Dear Milton:

It is extremely difficult for me to say "no" to a request from anyone named Eisenhower. However, your letter of August 29th rather puts me on a split stick. Since I have been on this job I have tried to be as anonymous as possible and, as a result, have declined such invitations to speak as I have received except those from the national or service war colleges where education is really a matter of duty. I really would like to come to Pennsylvania State College, although I am not a very good speaker, and I suppose I could talk about Russia from the viewpoint of a former Ambassador without causing too much comment. But the fact is that having said "no" several times to similar invitations and having partially established the principle of modest silence, I would rather not break it if you can get an equivalent speaker, which certainly would not be difficult from the standpoint of oratory.

I am starting on a trip this week and will see Ike during the first leg. I am afraid it is going to give me a bad case of nostalgia to see him in a military command post and to realize that I am not a part of the show.

Faithfully,

*John Gedee French*

3 cc--signer (reading)  
(personal w/ basic  
(official)